

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the very thorough consideration given the present application.

Claims 1-4 and 7-22 are now pending in this application. Claims 1, 12 and 18 are independent. Claims 1 and 7 have been amended. Claims 5 and 6 have been canceled. Claims 21 and 22 have been added.

Reconsideration of this application, as amended is respectfully requested.

DRAWING OBJECTIONS

The Examiner has objected to the drawings as failing to illustrate a power supply, as described in the specification. The Examiner states that any structural detail that is essential for a proper understanding of the disclosed invention should be shown in the drawings.

It is respectfully submitted that the structural detail of the power supply is not essential to a proper understanding of the disclosed invention. In other words, a conventional power supply would be used in combination with the flame shield of the present invention.

A conventional power supply is illustrated in Applicant's Figs.1 and 2, using reference numeral 4.

In any event, Applicants submit herewith a proposed drawing correction to Fig. 7. In Fig. 7, a block representation of a power supply 4 has been illustrated in combination with the flame shield 20 in accordance with the present invention.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to approve the proposed drawing correction.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

In the last Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 12-20 are allowed. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication for allowable subject matter.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 AND 103

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Fritz et al. Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fritz et al. in view of Varghese et al. Claims 5-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fritz in view of the prior art shown in Figs. 1A, and 1B of Tuttle et al. Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fritz et al. in view of Tuttle et al. and further in view of Bologna et al. Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fritz et al. in view of Kutsch et al. Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fritz et al. in view of Shirakami et al. Claims 10-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fritz et al. in view of Rinderer. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The limitations of dependent claim 6 and intervening claim 5 have been incorporated into independent claim 1. Therefore, the rejection of claims 1-3, applying Fritz et al. and the rejection of claim 4 applying Fritz et al. in view of Varghese et al. have been rendered moot.

Regarding the rejection of claims 5-6 applying Fritz in view of Tuttle et al., Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the rejection in light of the following

comments. The Examiner asserts that Tuttle et al. disclose a flame shield 110 including an extension 120 which extends outwardly away from the edge of the housing defined by the junction of “the rear and top surface of the housing (Fig. 1B)” (Office Action, page 4, line 9).

Applicants agree with the Examiner’s characterization of Tuttle et al. However, the limitations of claim 6, which have now been incorporated into independent claim 1 recite that the extended surface portion extends outwardly away from an edge of the housing defined by the junction of “a rear surface and a bottom surface of said housing.” In other words, the extended surface portion extends outwardly from the bottom surface of the housing (as illustrated in Applicants’ Fig. 6), whereas the extended portion of Tuttle et al. extends away from a top surface of the housing (see Fig. 1A).

The present invention has as an object, to shield flame and heat away from cables which are connected to the rear surface of the housing. The extended portion, as recited in claim 1, would accomplish this feat, since flame and heat tend to rise. Therefore, the extended portion which extends outwardly from the bottom surface of the housing would divert flame and heat away from cables connected to the rear of the housing. In contrast, any flame or heat rising from below the housing of Tuttle et al. would directly contact any cable or wiring entering the rear of the housing. For example, a power cable plugged into the outlet 160 illustrated in Fig. 1A of Tuttle would be directly exposed to flame and heat. The extended portion 120 extends from the top surface of the housing. Therefore, the extended portion 120 would not act to divert any flame or heat away from cables attached to the rear of the housing.

Applicants have reviewed the additional prior art applied by the Examiner and respectfully assert that none of the prior art of record shows or suggests an arrangement, as recited in the combination of structural elements of Applicants' independent claim 1. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

ADDED CLAIMS

Added dependent claim 21 depends upon independent claim 1 by virtue of intervening claim 7. It is respectfully submitted that dependent claim 21 should be allowable for at least this reason. Moreover, dependent claim 21 recites that the upwardly open cable guide is V-shaped. None of the prior art of record shows or suggests such a limitation when considered in a combination as presented in claim 21. Support for claim 21 can be found in Applicants' specification in at least paragraph 022, line 6.

New dependent claim 22 recites additional structural features of the flame shield. The additional structural features of the flame shield are similar to the features as recited in allowable claim 12.

Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Scott L. Lowe (Reg. No. 41,458) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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Attachment(s): Proposed red-ink correction to Fig. 7
Corrected Replacement Sheet of Drawings (Fig. 7)

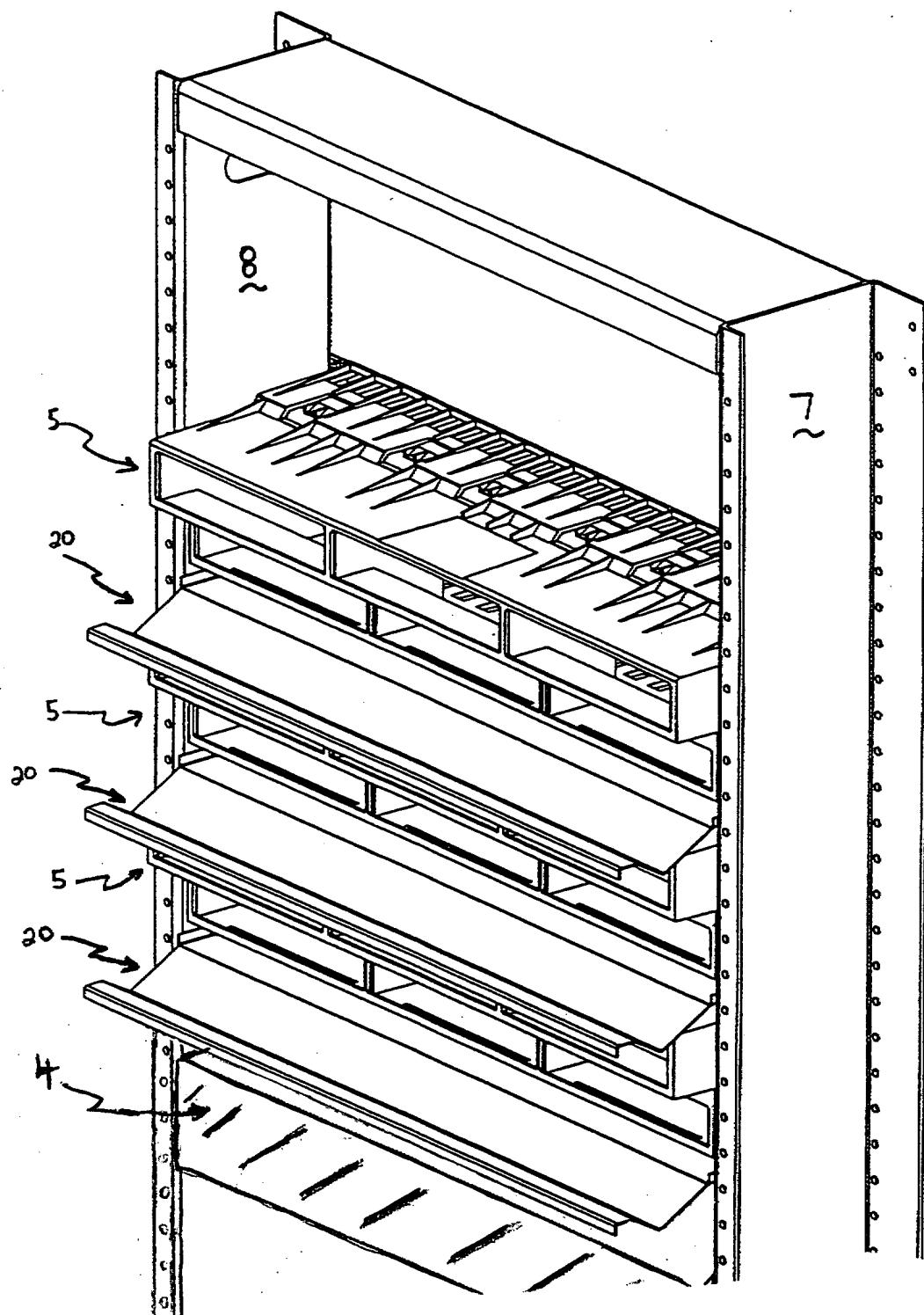


Figure 7